

Amendments to the Specification:

With respect to the International Application as published on February 24, 2005:

Please add on page 1, after the title and before the first full paragraph the following:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

Please add on page 1, after the first full paragraph and before the second full paragraph the following:

Summary of the Prior Art

Please add on page 2, after the first full paragraph and before the second full paragraph the following:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please add on page 6, after the fourth full paragraph and before the fifth full paragraph the following:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please add on page 7, after the first full paragraph and before the second full paragraph the following:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the language appearing from the second full paragraph on page 7 to the second full paragraph on page 9 with the following:

Views (a) to (d) of Figure 1 ~~shows~~ shows a preferred embodiment of an arrangement 1 according to the invention. The arrangement 1 comprises an elastically expanded sleeve 3 held on a plurality of substantially rigid internal supports (or “holdouts”). The sleeve 3 is in the form of a sleeve for a cable breakout, and has a first main section 7 of relatively large diameter, and three minor sections 9 extending there ~~from~~, of relatively small diameter. The main section 7 is for enclosing ~~the~~an end region of a three-core electrical power cable (not shown), and is held on a support 5 in accordance with the invention. The minor sections 9 are for individually enclosing the broken-out cores of the cable, and are individually held on separate conventional supports, or holdouts, 11.

An initiating part 13 of the sleeve 3 extends over a peripheral flange 15, which projects radially outwardly from an end of the support 5, around an entire periphery of the support 5. It will be appreciated that in order for the elastically expandable sleeve 3 to extend over the flange 15 of the support 5, it has been stretched and expanded to a greater extent than has the remainder of the main section 7 of the sleeve 3. Adjacent to the initiating part 13 of the sleeve 3 is a portion 17 of the sleeve 3, which is folded over the flange 15 (and thus folded over ~~an~~the end of the sleeve 3). This adjacent portion 17 of the sleeve 3 is therefore in a more relaxed state than that of the initiating part 13, and serves to retain the initiating part 13 in place on the flange 15 (and in its highly expanded and stretched condition).

In order to remove the section 7 of the sleeve 3 from the support 5, and allow the elastically expanded sleeve 3 to relax and contract around the end region of ~~the~~a cable, the adjacent portion 17 is merely expanded (preferably manually) sufficiently for the elasticity (i.e.

the resilience) of the sleeve 3 to cause the initiating part 13 of the sleeve 3 to be released from the flange 15 and to relax locally. This local relaxation of the initiating part 13 of the sleeve 3 then provides an impetus to cause the remainder of the ~~main~~sleeve section 7 to recover in a way that causes (or at least facilitates) the removal of the ~~sleeve~~-main section 7 from the support 5. Preferably, the potential energy released as kinetic energy by the release of the over-expanded and stretched initiating part 13 from the flange 15 overcomes the inertia of the ~~sleeve~~-main section 7, and especially the frictional forces between the ~~sleeve~~-main section 7 and the support 5, such that the elasticity of the ~~sleeve~~-main section 7 forces the section 7 in ~~the~~ direction of the arrow A in view (c) of Figure 1. This movement of the ~~sleeve~~-main section 7 from the support 5 is commonly known as “milk-off” (for its perceived resemblance to the action of milking a cow); and is facilitated by the support 5, or at least its external surface, being tapered in the direction of the arrow A. In practice, the removal of the ~~sleeve~~-main section 7 from the support 5 will generally be a combination of the sleeve 3 moving away from the support 5 in the direction of the arrow A; and the support 5 being forced out of the sleeve 3 in the opposite direction, by the elastic recovery forces of the sleeve. If ~~at~~ the leading end of the sleeve 3 grips, or is by other means substantially prevented from moving along, a cable located within the expanded sleeve 3, the support 5 will be forced to move away from the sleeve 3 in a direction opposite to the direction of the arrow A.

As already mentioned, the three minor sections 9 of the sleeve 3 are individually held in an expanded state by means of the respective individual supports 11. The supports 11 preferably are removed from the sleeve 3 in a conventional manner merely by withdrawing them manually. This is generally possible because the smaller diameters of the sections 9 give rise to lower contracting forces opposing their expansion, and therefore the individual supports 11 are easier

to remove than ~~is the~~ larger support 5. Even so, it is generally desirable to provide aids to their removal, such as the illustrated external ribs, and possibly also lubricant provided on ~~the~~ external surfaces thereof. Such ribs and/or lubricant may also be provided on ~~an~~the exterior of the support 5, to aid the removal of the ~~sleeve~~ main section 7 therefrom.

Views (a) to (d) of Figure 2 show, schematically, the main stages of the above described process of stretching the initiating part 13 of the sleeve 3 around the flange 15, subsequently followed by triggering the release of the sleeve 3 from the support by expanding the adjacent portion 17 of the sleeve 3. In Figure 2 ~~view~~-(a), the initiating part 13 is longitudinally stretched (in addition to its expansion to accommodate the support 5) so that it may extend over the flange 15. In Figure 2 ~~view~~-(b), the adjacent portion 17 is shown relaxing beyond the flange 15, thereby retaining the initiating part 13 in position on the flange 15 in its “over deformed” state. Figure 2 ~~View~~-(c) shows the manual release (e.g., by finger 18) of the adjacent portion 17, leading to the relaxation of the initiating part 13 in view (d), which triggers the relaxation of the entire ~~sleeve~~ main section 7.

Figure 3 shows: in view (a) a cross-sectional, and in view (b) a plan views of a movable protrusion 19 of a preferred arrangement according to the invention. In this arrangement, instead of (or in addition to) a fixed flange 14 (or the like) one or more of the~~such~~ movable protrusions 19 are provided. The protrusion 19 functions in exactly the same way as the flange 15 of ~~figures~~ Figures 1(a) to and 2(d), but in this embodiment, in order locally to relax the initiating part 13 of the sleeve 3 such that it triggers the removal of the sleeve 3 from the support 5, a locking device 21 which locks the protrusion in its “protruding mode” is removed from the support 5 (in ~~a~~the direction of arrow B) thereby allowing the expanded sleeve 3 to force the movable protrusion 19 through the support 5 such that it no longer protrudes significantly (i.e., its

“non-protruding mode”) and thus causing the sleeve 3 to relax and become removed from the support 5.

Views (a) to (b) of Figure 4 (~~views (a) and (b)~~) schematically illustrates two embodiments of the invention which do not rely on an “over expansion” of the initiating part 13 of the sleeve 3. In each of these embodiments, the initiating part 13 near to an end of the sleeve 3 is deformed no more (or not substantially more) than the remainder of the sleeve 3, but ~~the~~ adjacent portion 17 of the sleeve 3 is folded over an end 23 of the support 5 (in view (a) of Figure 4) or over ~~a~~ the lip 25 of a recess, or a reduced diameter section 27 of the sleeve 3 (in view (b) of Figure 4) due to the elasticity of the sleeve 3. By expanding the adjacent portion 17, the initiating part 13 of the sleeve 3 is allowed to relax, thereby triggering the recovery of the entire sleeve, and its removal from the support 5. For a given elasticity of the sleeve 3, ~~a~~ the height H of the lip 25 determines the releasing force required to relax the initiating part 13 of the sleeve 3, and to trigger the recovery of the entire sleeve 3.

Please replace the heading on page 10 with the following:

Claims WHAT IS CLAIMED IS: